



NEWS RELEASE

November 10, 2010

U.S. Embassy Statement on Travel Warning

The United States values its long-standing and deep friendship with the Philippines. Our soldiers fought side-by-side in World War II and on other battlefields in Asia. Tomorrow, during our Veterans' Day commemoration, we will remember and honor American and Filipino heroes for their shared sacrifices to preserve freedom and democracy. Stemming from this bond of friendship, our two countries continue to oppose injustice by cooperating closely on regional security, counterterrorism, and in combating transnational crime and corruption. Our militaries work together on disaster relief, maritime security, defense reform, and human rights. We also have a history of partnerships in business, and we both seek to encourage economic growth and development. The United States is the largest development grant donor, one of the largest investors, and the number one trading partner of the Philippines.

Our people-to-people ties are extraordinarily strong. On any given day, approximately 250,000 American citizens are in the Philippines. As part of our responsibility to ensure the well-being of our citizens, the United States Government encourages them to make informed decisions as they travel around the world. For that reason, the U.S. provides updates on security and other considerations that people should be aware of when they travel. In the case of the Philippines, the United States does not advise its citizens against visiting any part of the country. We do, however, have a responsibility to warn our citizens about the risks in certain places and to urge them to consider this information carefully when deciding whether or not to travel. These travel warnings are normally updated twice a year. Our most recent travel warning issued on November 2, 2010 varies only slightly from that issued six months ago. All our recent travel warnings note that terrorism can occur anywhere in the world. We have had a travel warning in effect for the Philippines since at least 2005 and the updated travel warning does not reflect a change in alert status.

The U.S. Embassy respects our mutually beneficial friendship with the Philippine Government and the Philippine people. We will continue to work together against terrorism by training Philippine security forces, providing equipment and sharing information on potential threats. Our mutual efforts have contributed to significant successes in protecting Filipino and U.S. citizens.

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